

# LITERARY ORGANS SCORED IN SOVIET

## Conservative and Liberal Journals Criticized

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, April 5—The head of the Moscow branch of the Soviet writers' union has called for an end to the bitter dispute between leading conservative and liberal journals.

In context, the appeal made by Sergei Mikhalkov amounted to a concession to Soviet liberals who have been criticized often in the last year for not living up to the demands of last April's Central Committee meeting, which called for a tougher ideological line.

Mr. Mikhalkov, addressing a meeting that re-elected him first secretary of the Moscow branch, leveled equal criticism at both Oktyabr, the publication of the Soviet Union's intellectual conservatives, and Novy Mir, the favorite of the liberals.

This is believed to be the first time that Oktyabr, edited by Vsevolod Kochetov, the nov-

## Criticism Is Mutual

Often to the amusement of Moscow's intelligentsia, the back pages of both journals engage in a spirited attack on each other. This is done either through criticisms of works that have appeared in the other's journal or rebuttals to that criticism.

In the past month, however, Novy Mir had been singled out by Pravda, the Communist party newspaper, and Literaturnaya Gazeta, the paper of the national writers' union, for its nonconformist articles, creating apprehension in some circles that a crackdown was imminent.

Mr. Mikhalkov's remarks were summarized by Literaturnaya Rossiya, a literary weekly of the writers' union of the Russian Republic, largest in the Soviet Union.

He said that there remain major problems in the literary world, and he called for "uniting all critical forces on a principled basis—without group intrigues, group interests and passions."

"Equally unacceptable to us," he said, "is the appearance of partisan bias in the critical sections of the journals Novy Mir and Oktyabr, which cause confusion in the minds of readers and writers."

## Two Novels Scored

A recent novel in Novy Mir that told about Stalinist abuses in the Urals, "Youth in Zhelezobolsk," and a novel in Oktyabr that was a strong attack on the liberal intellectuals, "The Jaws of the Locust," received equal criticism from Mr. Mikhalkov.

Oktyabr is an organ of the union of writers of the Russian Republic and Novy Mir of the writers' union of the entire Soviet Union.

Oktyabr's circulation is 135,800 and the journal is generally regarded as opposed to avant-garde tendencies in Soviet literature and to Western influences.

Novy Mir, edited by Aleksandr Tvardovsky, the poet, has a circulation of 123,700, and has been the sponsor of several controversial writers, including Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

The equal criticism given the journals indicated the inability of conservatives, who are said to dominate the party leadership, to take decisive action against the liberals, who apparently still have supporters in high places.

It also shows the leadership's desire not to further antagonize intellectuals who have been unhappy with trials of writers and dissenters and have been unenthusiastic with the invasion of Czechoslovakia.



United Press International  
Sergei Mikhalkov

elist, has been criticized by a member of the Soviet establishment since 1965 when both Oktyabr and Novy Mir received equal slaps on the wrist for their diametrically opposed views.